

Remarks

Claim rejections 35 USC § 103.

The examiner rejects claims 1 and 10 under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Reitzig 6,866,484 in view of Lynn 6,074,174. The examiner further rejects claims 1, 2 and 10 as being unpatentable over Reitzig in view of Abousabha 5,079,996. Applicant respectfully disagrees that these cited references have sufficient teachings to demonstrate the obviousness of applicant's claim 1. A person having ordinary skill in the art with the knowledge of the teachings in the cited references, would not utilize a universal joint in connection with causing a piston assembly to wobble.

Reitzig discloses an assembly which enables a high pressure plunger pump to reciprocate. High pressure plunger pumps are utilized, as stated at column 1 lines 6-9 of Reitzig, for producing high pressure water jets which are used for different purposes such as for cutting material like metal sheet or cleaning surfaces. One would never want to impart a wobble on the actual plungers which allow for reciprocation. They would clearly leak.

The whole purpose of Reitzig was to allow for the use of a wobble or nutating member which uses an articulation assembly 36 that does not cause the plungers to wobble. Reitzig avoids causing the plungers to wobble because member 35 imparts axial motion by having the wobble member pressure plate 38 slide across surface 47 of plungers 7. Employing a wobble type assembly like that disclosed in Lynn or Abousabha, to cause the plungers (pistons) of Reitzig to wobble, would defeat the whole purpose of Reitzig. Accordingly one would not apply the teachings as suggested in the Office Action. The obviousness rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 10 depend on claim 1 and are thus allowable for the same reasons with respect to claim 1. Accordingly the rejection to these claims should be withdrawn. Additionally claim 10 is allowable as there is simply no teaching in the prior art that a cup

seal would have any usefulness or application in connection with sealing a plunger to a cylinder in a high pressure pump. For these reasons, the rejections to claims 2 and 10 should also be withdrawn.

Objection to claims 3-9.

Applicant has amended claims 3, 6 and 9 to stand in independent form in accordance with the suggestions of the examiner. Applicant points out that claim 6 does not include the limitations of claim 2, the ball and socket joint. Original claim 6 was objected to; the examiner suggested it be made to depend from claim 2 to correct an antecedent basis problem. Amended claim 6's recitation of a hollow piston rod is sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.

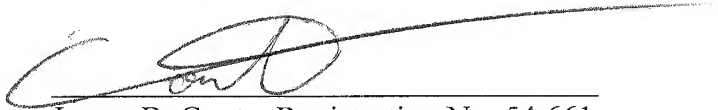
Applicant agrees that these claims as amended to stand in independent form are allowable over the cited references. The remaining claims 4-8 depend from one of these claims and thus are allowable for the same reasons with respect to claims 3 6 or 9. These claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections.

Applicant has amended claims 1-2 as suggested by the Office Action. The antecedent basis problem was addressed by amending claim 7. The claim objections should be withdrawn.

June 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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